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## NOTES AND NEWS.

THE FIRST MEETING of the Society for the season of 1902-1903 will be held at Mendelssohn Hall, No. 119 West Fortieth Street, on Tuesday, November 18, 1902, at 8.30 o'clock, P. M.

Civil Engineer R. E. Peary, U. S. N., will address the Society on his four years' work in the Arctic.

On the 23d of December Mr. George S. Morison, of the Isthmian Canal Commission, will deliver a lecture on the Panama Canal.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICANISTS held its Thirteenth Session at the American Museum of Natural History in this city in the week of Oct. 20-25. The attendance was large, and the papers read and presented were of unusual variety.

The Fourteenth Session of the Congress will be held at Stuttgart in 1904.

TELEGRAPHIC TIME SIGNALS are now sent out at noon daily, except Sundays and Holidays, by the U. S. Naval Observatory. The Annual Report of the Superintendent for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1902, says:

This series of noon signals is sent continuously over the wires all over the United States for an interval of five minutes immediately preceding noon. For the country east of the Rocky Mountains the signals are sent out by the Observatory at Washington and end at noon of the 75th meridian, standard time, corresponding to 11 A. M. of the 90th meridian and 10 A. M. of the 105th meridian. For the country west of the Rocky Mountains they are sent out by the Observatory at the Mare Island Navy Yard, California, and end at noon of the 120th meridian, the standard time meridian of the Pacific Coast. The transmitting clock that sends out the signals is corrected very accurately, shortly before noon, from the mean of three standard clocks that are rated by star sights with a meridian transit instrument. The noon signal is seldom in error to an amount greater than one or two-tenths of a second, although a tenth more may be added by the relays in use on long telegraph lines. Electric transmission over a continuous wire is practically instantaneous. For time signals at other times than noon, similar signals can be sent out by telegraph or telephone from the same clock that sends out the noon signal.

PROF. GEORGE DAVIDSON, of San Francisco, sends the following note:

The late Mr. John Dolbeer, of San Francisco, bequeathed the sum of five thousand dollars to the Geographical Society of the Pacific. He had been a director of

the Society for many years, and was cherished as a man of broad and liberal views, and especially devoted to all geographical research. He was much interested in the development of the new territories on the Pacific, and of the surveys of Alaska and the Philippines. His travels had whetted his interest.

A COMMUNICATION from De Bilt, under date of June 9, 1902, announces the formation of a Section of Terrestrial Magnetism and Seismology, under the charge of Dr. Maurits Snellen, in the Royal Meteorological Institute of the Netherlands, of which Dr. C. H. Wind became Chief Director on the 1st of June.